

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. In fact, they're pretty bad. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

It's the same garbage over several different channels, frankly.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003, but believe that more are needed. Get farther outside the Beltway, folks. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

And I've held broadcast stock since before the first Dereg acts.

The share prices have NOT gone up. So, who's getting the money?

The debt service alone incurred by the major radio chains is frightening. And radio is fueled by advertising dollars. I'd like to see this question addressed: if the major players start going belly up, is the FCC willing to run radio stations?

Thank you,

Rich Strong
Lexington, KY